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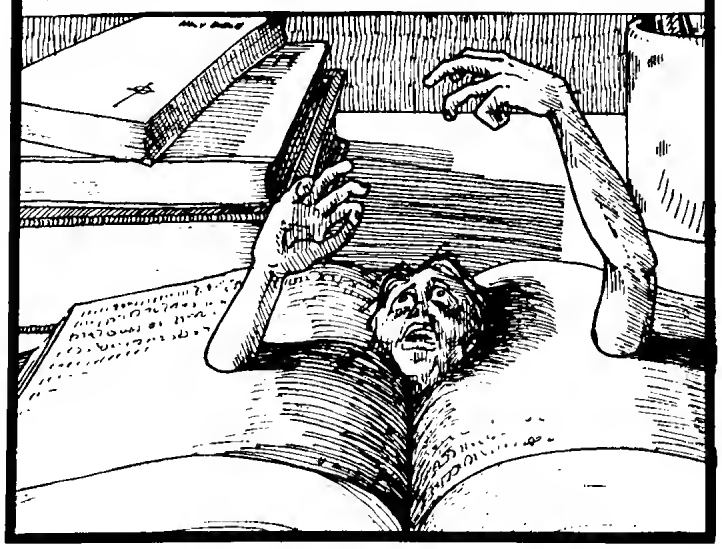

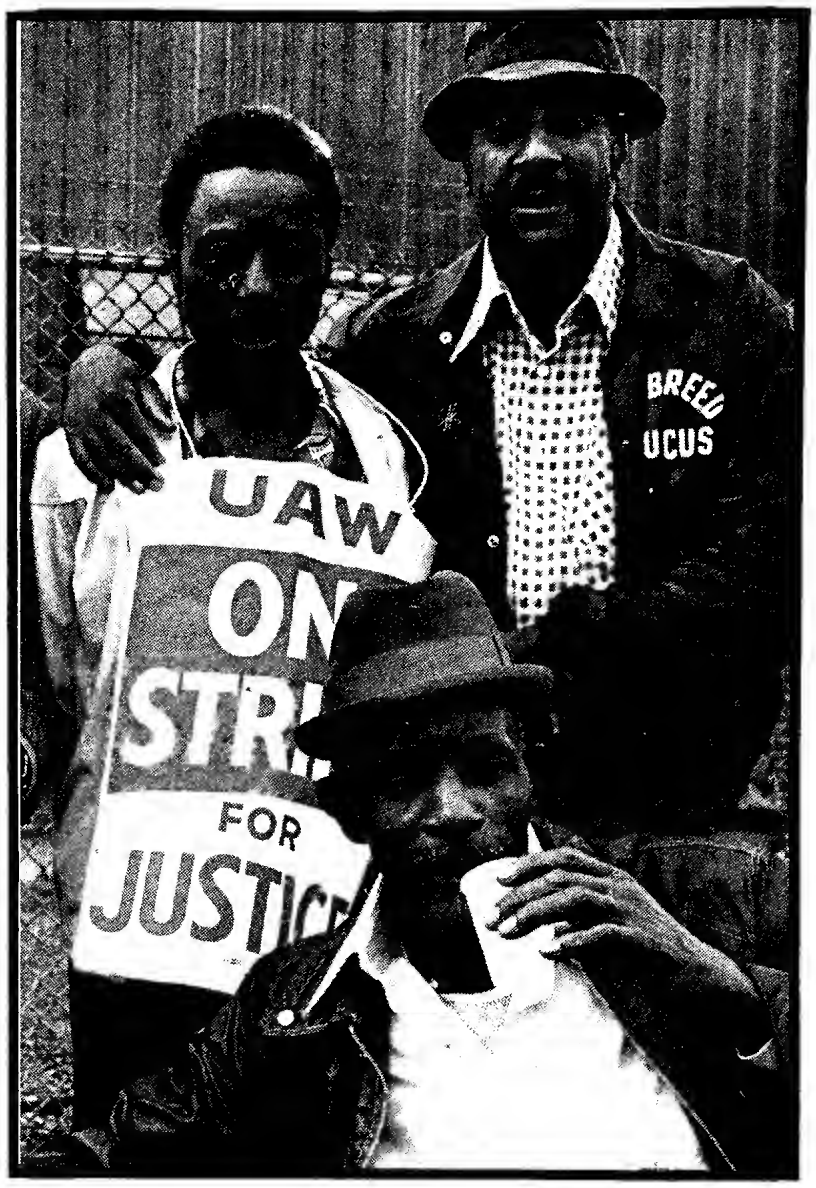

Report from Detroit: U.A.W. on Strike

Chilean Exile Leader Killed

#817 September 25, 1976

LNS

LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE Packet #817
17 W. 17th St., N.Y., N.Y. September 25, 1976

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*****CORRECTIONS*****

In SOUTHERN AFRICA story, packet #816, page 1: In the fifth paragraph under the subheading Zimbabwe, first sentence -- the missing word is has.

In RANK & FILE TAXI story, packet #816, page 5: We mislabeled the group sponsoring the action in the first and third paragraphs. It should be United Taxi Workers.

In DIOXIN story, packet #816, page 6: in the seventh paragraph, after the number 620,000 there should be -acre.

LETELIER/CHILE story continuation from page 3:

demand a [illegible] investigation into the murder of Orlando Letelier, the expulsion of Manuel Truco--the Chilean junta's ambassador to the U.S., and severance of U.S. economic and political ties with the junta.

Telegrams and letters demanding an investigation should be sent to Attorney General Levi at the Justice Department. Those demanding Truco's expulsion should be sent to Kissinger and all elected officials. The National Chile Center, at 56 Fifth Ave., Rm. 510, New York, N.Y., also asks that copies be sent to them.

"The depth of our mourning," commented Dorothy Steffens of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, "is a measure of the depth of our determination to carry on the struggle until the people of Chile are free.

" [illegible] and to the 40,000 others who have died in Chile. Chile will be free!"

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NOTES

The funeral for Orlando Letelier, the former Allende government official and Chilean exile leader who was assassinated in Washington on September 21, will take place in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, September 26. Hortensia Allende, now in Italy, is applying for a visa to attend.

Busloads of people from around the Northeast will be attending. Participants are asked to meet in Sheridan Circle, where Letelier's car was blown up, at 12:30 p.m. The memorial services will begin at 3 p.m. at St. Mathews Church.

New York City memorial services will take place on Sunday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m. Call the National Chile Center at (212) 989-0085 for further details.

If you get a badly printed graphic or are missing a page, please let us know and we'll send you another

(See photographs.)

170. 30 AUTO WORKERS STRIKE FORD MOTOR COMPANY: WORKERS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT FORD-UAW TALKS

[Editor's Note: The following report was prepared by 8 LNS staff members who went there to cover the strike.]

DEARBORN, Mich.(LNS)--"The main problem we face is job security," explained Robert Coleman as he picketed Gate 1 of the Ford River Rouge plant in Dearborn where 25,000 people work in every aspect of car production, including steel, foundry, stamping, glass and assembly.

"We've got a lot of brothers out on the road that should be in here working," added another striker, noting that over 50,000 of the auto workers laid off during the 1974-75 recession have still not been called back to work yet.

Picket lines were thrown up at 102 Ford plants throughout the country on September 14, with 170,000 workers going out on strike. The United Auto Workers chose Ford as its "target" and will negotiate a new contract with the company that will set the pattern for another 530,000 workers at General Motors and Chrysler.

Workers Fight for Job Security

Auto workers are fighting the continued layoffs, forced overtime work, rapid speed-ups on the line, subcontracting by the companies to non-union labor, and requirements by the company that workers work jobs outside their own classification.

These conditions have become the norm of operations since the end of the 1974-75 recession. And they all add up to one thing: the companies are producing more cars and making higher profits with fewer workers than before the recession. The workers maintain that they are not simply suffering from a transition after the recession, but are facing a new period of deteriorated working conditions and high unemployment that the companies want to maintain.

The comapnies have found it more profitable to have a limited number of employees working faster and more hours, even at time and a half overtime pay, than to rehire workers still on layoff who they would have to pay benefits, as well as wages.

"If they want to increase production with the same number of people, they'll increase it, they'll phase it in somehow," said a striker at the River Rouge plant. "When I worked on the assembly line they were supposed to put off 40 cars an hour. But they would creep up the speed on you in a period of a couple of hours and you wouldn't even notice that you've been putting out another couple units."

At the Chrysler Trenton Engine plant employees have been working seven days a week for four months, and a similar situation exists at a GM automatic transmission plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan, near Detroit. Workers at the Mahwah, New Jersey Ford assembly plant have been putting in 10 hours of overtime a week plus another 10 hours on 34 Saturdays a year for the past three years.

"They don't ask you to work Saturday and Sunday," explained a repair clerk at the River Rouge plant, "they tell you. And if you don't come in, you get a warning and eventually get fired."

"We supposedly won 'voluntary' overtime rights in the 1973 contract, but there were so many exceptions written into the provision that 'voluntary' is meaningless," added a Dodge truck worker.

One worker in Dearborn summarized the companies' policy of continued layoffs with forced overtime and speed-ups: "The more workers Ford has, the more insurance and other benefits he would have to pay. He's not in business to be a philanthropist. He's in there to make money."

The companies are certainly making money. Ford Motor took in $770 million in profits during the first half of this year, and will surpass their record high of $907 million in profits during 1973. General Motors, biggest of the "Big Three" took in $1.7 billion in profits during the first six months of 1976 and Chrysler turned out record profits during the same period, after 18 months in the red.

Little Confidence in Negotiations

In addition to the primary issue of job security striking workers also say they need a wage increase, an improved cost of living allowance (COLA), and an expanded Supplemental Unemployment Benefits fund to prevent it from running out as it did during the height of the 1975 layoffs. They also stress that a COLA is needed on pensions because retirees are now living on fixed incomes between contracts.

But most workers on the picket lines do not expect that many of these demands will be met in the current contract negotiations.

"We don't know what the hierarchy is negotiating -- they might be talking about something completely different from us at the grassroots," said a striker in the steel products division at the River Rouge plant.

"I think they're just going through a stage act," said a young black worker who has worked in windshield production at the River Rouge plant for eight years. "If we do get something out of this strike, I'd be shocked."

The lack of confidence in the negotiations was overwhelmingly uniform among workers ranging from individuals on the picket line at the River Rouge plant, to organized rank and file groups.

Companies' "Takeaways"

Ford and GM began bargaining in July with a long list of proposals which workers describe as "takeaways" from gains won in provious contracts.

Some of these takeaways are:

*reductions of the amount and duration of the SUB fund benefits, which ran out at GM and Chrysler during the peak of the recession, when more than 250,000 workers were laid off;

*computation of wage-related benefits on a lower base scale than proviously;

*diverting money from the cost of living allowance (COLA) increases to pay for some health benefits;

*tying vacation time to good attendance;

*paying newly-hired or rehired workers $1/hour less than everyone else and not bringing up their wages

fully until they have worked for a year ("new hires" have traditionally received 5-10¢/hour less than others until they received a sharp cut of 45¢/hour in the 1973 contract.)

Union Responds with Little Muscle

While the UAW leadership insists that its primary emphasis is on a "reduced work" plan to solve the unemployment problem, the proposal is weak and has no guarantee of being a real solution.

The union is pressing for one day off each month, with no cut in pay. UAW president Leonard Woodcock told a press conference the day before the strike began that the assumption behind the "reduced work time" plan was "that there would be a need for replacing people who would be on a paid absence from time to time."

But when asked if there would be a guarentee on additional people coming into the workforce as a result, Woodcock responded, "I wouldn't use the word 'guarantee.'"

The paid day off proposal is a watered down version of a demand by some rank and file groups that people should work for 30 hours at 40 hours pay. However, few strikers on the picket line considered this a realizable goal.

One rank and file group, the "Auto Workers United To Fight in 76" argues against the "30 For 40" demand precisely because it is unrealistic, highly susceptible to being watered down (as has already happened), and has no guarantee of putting people back to work even if it was carried out.

Although forced to call a strike to strengthen its hand in the contract negotiations, the union leadership clearly doesn't want a repeat of militant strike activities such as the one that occurred at Lordstown, Ohio in 1972. In that year, thousands of militant workers went out on strike over speed-ups and working conditions, despite attempts by UAW president Woodcock to bring the strike under his control.

"We regret that the UAW has been forced to call a strike against Ford Motor Company," was the way Woodcock announced the strike on September 14. The union has given permission to so many people to go into the plants and work, that pickerers appear to be carrying out a bureaucratic function of checking the passes of those entering plants more often than they are actually preventing people from going in.

At the Dearborn stamping plant the union is allowing some union members (not UAW members) to go in and "clean up." But "who knows what else they're doing in there?" observed one auto worker. At the Ford plant in Mahwah, New Jersey, workers were at first ordered to picket only 12 hours a day.

The union leadership has ordered the whole of Local #245 to continue working at Ford's Research Center in Detroit, even though the local membership voted to strike. Any workers in local #245 who do strike will not receive any strike benefits and will not be protected by the union if the company fires them.

Similarly, the smoke billowing out of the huge River Rouge plant is evidence that workers there are forced to keep the coke ovens operating.

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SEVERAL PRISONERS PROTEST CONDITIONS IN ATLANTA PENITENTIARY

NEW YORK(LNS) --Several prisoners at the Atlanta Penitentiary began a hunger strike September 10, and slashed their heel string tendons "in protest of brutal conditions in Atlanta," according to prisoners activists Eddie Sanchez.

In a letter to LNS, the prisoner wrote that on the same day, he had been "beaten with pick axe handles and thrown again into the infamous "side pocket" (strip cell) at the prison.

Sanchez and prisoners Ronald Ralph and Joesph Paveglio are protesting conditions in the segregation unit, including the "side pockets, denial of proper medical care, police brutality, and beatings of prisoners." The prisoners protest further that "people from other parts of the country are shipped here where they can't get visits."

* * *

The group urges people to send letters of protest to Warden Marvin Hogan, U.S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga. with copies sent to Attorney Ralph Goldberg, 776 Juniper St., N.E., Atlanta, Ga.

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BUT WOULD IT FOOL AN EARTHQUAKE?

NEW YORK (Dollars & Sense/LNS)--"Are we doing what I think we're doing" asked an Alaska pipeline worker ordered to put an incorrect identification number on a weld.

"Ask no questions," said the foreman.

The worker, Peter Kelley of Fairbanks, later discovered that his suspicions were correct: he was involved in a scheme to falsify X-rays of welds joining pieces of pipe in the 800-mile-long pipeline.

Other X-rays have disappeared in a burglary, and a troubleshooter hired to investigate X-ray irregularities has apparently committed suicide.

The X-rays are used to identify faulty welds which could break in the event of an earthquake or other shock. A break would spill thousands of barrels of oil, making a wasteland of nearby sections of Alaska's fragile tundra.

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News in your area? Call us (212) 989-3555 or write (17 W. 17th St., New York, N.Y. 10011) and send photos.

CHILEAN EXILE LEADER ORLANDO LETELIER
ASSASSINATED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

"Today, Pinochet has signed a decree in which it is said that I am deprived of my nationality....(It is) a dramatic day in my life when the action of the fascist generals makes me feel more Chilean than ever. Because we are the true Chileans, in the tradition of Allende, Neruda...Jara, and they--the fascists--are the enemies of Chile, the traitors who are selling our country to foreign interests.

"I was born a Chilean, I am a Chilean, and I will die a Chilean. They were born traitors, they live as traitors, and they will be remembered forever as fascist traitors."

--Orlando Letelier in his last public speech, at a benefit concert for the restoration of human rights in Chile, September 10, 1976, in New York City.

NEW YORK (LNS)--Orlando Letelier, former ambassador to the U.S. from Salvador Allende's Popular Unity government and an important leader of current Chilean exiles, was assassinated in Washington D.C. September 21 when a bomb blast ripped apart his car.

Killed with Letelier was Ronnie Karpen Moffit, a woman who worked with him at the Trans National Institute, a division of the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies. Moffit's husband, Michael, was also injured in the early morning blast as the car entered Sheridan Circle, just six blocks away from the Chilean embassy.

"His death was no accident," said Sandy Pollack for the National Chile Center, the main coordinating body of the Chile solidarity movement in the U.S. "It was a criminal act of the Chilean secret police, the DINA, which is directly responsible to General Augusto Pinochet."

"Washington is crawling with DINA agents," Michael Moffitt said at his wife's funeral September 23. "They were out to kill Orlando, and Ronnie and I just happened to be in the car with him."

Moffitt reported hearing a loud buzzing right before the explosion. Television news broadcasts on September 23 reported speculations that the bomb was set off by a remote control device triggered from within the nearby Chilean embassy.

The reaction to Letelier's murder was intense and widespread. Telegrams expressing shock and outrage poured in from organizations and individuals throughout the world.

Immediately after the bombing the Institute for Policy Studies held a press conference, denouncing the killing as "a political assassination." A demonstration at the Chilean Embassy followed.

In New York City the day after the killing, 800 to 1,000 people wearing black armbands demonstrated outside the Chilean mission to the U.N. "Pinocent, assesino!" shouted the intense crowd as they picketed for an hour under a sign reading "Orlando Letelier Lives In The People, Chile Will Be Free."

Actions also took place in Philadelphia, San Francisco, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City and Binghamton, N.Y.

Orlando Letelier--Marked for Murder

Letelier was a respected and visible figure among Chilean exiles in the fight to restore democracy to his country. He gave the keynote address at a national conference of Chile solidarity groups held in Washington in mid-May. The conference demanded an end to all political and military aid to the junta, and refuge and aid for Chilean exiles.

Just ten days before his murder, Letelier was stripped of his Chilean citizenship by a Supreme Decree bearing the signature of General Pinochet. The junta said its decision was based on Letelier's efforts in Holland to stop further Dutch economic investment in Chile.

Letelier has expressed fear for his life ever since he was released from a Chilean prison two years ago through an intense international campaign in his behalf. "They're going to kill me...the DINA," he said at that time.

Last May he was warned that DINA agents were in the U.S. And a Chilean exile reported seeing a high ranking DINA official and four Chilean secret police agents get off a plane from Santiago landing in New York August 25.

Death List of Chilean Exiles

According to the National Chile Center, DINA is involved in a long and well-substantiated list of activities inside Chile and around the world. These activities have been documented by such agencies as the U.N. Human Rights Commission, the Human Rights Commission of the Organization of American States, and Amnesty International.

In September, 1974 Carlos Prats, an army general under Allende, was killed by a bomb explosion in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In September, 1975, vice-president of the Christian Democratic Party and ex-Senator Bernardo Leighton and his wife were shot and wounded on a Rome street.

"The DINA, in fact, has a 'death list' of at least 200 prominent Chileans abroad, all of whom are pegged for assassination," the National Chile Center reports.

"All this is in the context of the newly-announced 'Red September' plan, whereby the junta is claiming that so-called extremists in Chile have gone underground--thus 'explaining' the disappearance of over 3000 Chileans who have actually been secretly arrested and for whom the junta refuses to be accountable."

Inside Chile, reports the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, between 30,000 and 40,000 persons have been murdered by the military since September, 1973. Another 8,000, approximately, are believed to be in prison. And one out of every hundred Chileans has been detained--many of them tortured by techniques perfected by the DINA.

Campaign to Investigate Death

A nationwide campaign has been launched by the Chile support groups throughout the U.S. to

--continued on inside front cover--

(See graphics to go with this story).

BOSTON AREA FBI INFORMANT SURFACES;
"THEY ALWAYS THOUGHT OF BOSTON AS ONE OF THE HOTSPOTS"

NEW YORK (LNS)--Political activist Danny Schechter, WBCN radio's "News Dissector," received a surprise visitor in late August -- a disaffected Boston-area FBI informant by the name of Ulick "Yule" Mahoney who proceeded to spill the beans on agency activity in the area.

"Mahoney's story confirms for the first time the existence, in the Boston area, of a network of government agents and informants who have been burrowing around virtually every citizens' political movement for at least the last five years," writes Schechter in the September 25th issue of the Boston Real Paper.

"And Mahoney confirms that, despite Clarence Kelley's assurances to the contrary, domestic spying by the FBI is still going on in Boston."

Since 1971 Mahoney, known to the FBI by the pseudonym Hari Seldon, has spied on more than 33 New England-area organizations, informing on or identifying at least 900 people. Mahoney told Schechter that he thinks there were nine other similar informants in the Boston area.

Nationally, the Senate (Church) Committee's final report on the FBI states that *"the FBI has compiled at its headquarters over 480,000 files on its 'subversive' investigations and over 33,000 files on its 'extremism' investigations.*

"During the twenty years from 1955 to 1975, the FBI conducted 240,000 investigations of 'subversive matters' and 190,000 investigations of 'extremist matters.'"

A Classic FBI Informant

"Debriefing Mahoney was both fascinating and frustrating," writes Schechter. "It took hours and hours to get his story into some basic chronological order....But as we continued to meet over the weeks, the accretion of detail in his rambling narratives became more and more compelling. And although verifying most of his story was difficult, I was able to find individuals who could confirm elements of it."

An agent at Boston FBI headquarters has also acknowledged contact with Mahoney but refused to answer any further questions put to him by the Real Paper.

Schechter found Mahoney to be "the classic psychological profile of an FBI informant," at 25, an alcoholic and a deeply troubled young man. From a lower-middle class Irish-Catholic family in Boston, Mahoney went to Norwich University in Vermont, the country's second oldest military college. There, reports Schechter, he met a small group of political activists and "quickly fell over his political head, getting involved in half-baked conspiracy fantasies about blowing up highway bridges and violent bombing campaigns. None of these schemes ever came off."

The FBI first contacted him in 1971 and told him they knew he had plotted illegal acts. They let it be known that any potential charges would be dropped, that his problems with the draft would be settled, and that the agency would help pay back his Defense Loan -- all for a little information. Mahoney agreed.

"The first agent I worked with knew I had many problems with my family," Mahoney told Schechter. "As I reflect upon the experience, I think the Bureau was using my alcoholism as means to keep me on the payroll."

The Job

Yule Mahoney's job consisted of going to meetings, picking up leaflets and keeping the FBI informed on who was doing what. At least 80% of intelligence agency information comes from publicly available material. So Mahoney became a systematic reader of "subversive" newspapers and one of Schechter's most faithful radio listeners. He made no close friends and gained little responsibility in the organizations he was assigned to cover. His "intelligence" was transmitted to the Bureau by phone or in face-to-face meetings with his agent "handler."

"They always thought of Boston as one of the hot spots," he says, "right behind San Francisco, but definitely one of the big centers of the left....(In) every New Left group in Boston (there is) someone -- male or female -- working to gather intelligence....The (the FBI) have people, plenty of people, and they pay. They pay well."

Mahoney says he has received more than $9,000 for his part-time spying services over the last five and a half years.

"They would always be calling me up, and asking me to pick up one publication or another," he said. "'Go down to Red Book,' (a Cambridge political bookstore) they'd say, 'and get me a Claridad or an Osawotomie.' And so I would go bring it to them, stopping at other groups like the Indochina Peace Campaign or the Law Commune on the way. We would call this 'the round robin.'"

The FBI wanted Mahoney to get more deeply involved in various organizations and told him that his payments would be increased if he rose to a leadership position. But Schechter said Mahoney "never did manage to penetrate any one group for too long. He lacked the temperament and disposition to do so, preferring his more freelance arrangement." Said Mahoney recently, "I just couldn't do it. What I was doing was bad enough."

In the summer of 1972 Mahoney actually revealed his FBI connections to several people at a meeting ("I just couldn't do it any more," he recalled. "I was drunk out of my mind") and told them "everything" about his FBI work.

But after a short disappearance from the scene, he resumed his FBI activities in the Boston area, intensifying them over the next four years.

Mahoney And NCLC

"Among Mahoney's most bizarre assignments," writes Schechter, "was his involvement with the National Caucus of Labor Committees, the crazoids

who most people on the Left have long believed to be an FBI front." Mahoney describes it this way:

"NCLC was a group of fanatics and provocateurs against all others in the 'movement.' Their insanity and mine mixed well. In 10/73 I went to New York to an NCLC convention -- stayed with the head of the N.Y. campaign. Violence by NCLC against black, Hispanic and Jewish groups was the prime reasons for infiltration."

Mahoney described NCLC actions that provoked racial conflicts. "NCLC struck against many minority groups, accused many persons in the NAACP-DeMauMau as being CIA funded," said Mahoney. "Information I supplied in 10/73 and 11/73 could have prevented violence that could and did cause racial incidents -- unfortunately the information -- NCLC plans to leaflet canvas in Roxbury -- provocateuring tensions between white and black was used. The FBI loved the idea of racial violence -- the more the better -- white against black."

Mahoney could document no instance in which the FBI actually urged him to provoke or lead violence, says Schechter. "In fact, he could cite no examples of FBI break-ins or disruption programs in Boston of the kind documented elsewhere in the country. He says that on one occasion, he did urge 'militant action' at a group which was planning a low-level protest. 'They loved militance,' he says of his FBI liaisons, 'the more militant the better.'"

Mahoney's last assignment was to report on Puerto Rican groups and on the Puerto Rican Socialist Party's mobilization for July 4 in Philadelphia. In August, he received his last stipend. The Boston office told him their relationship was off due to FBI reorganization, although Mahoney says the amount of money he was paid had been cut back since November of 1975. He thinks that was because the FBI had developed better sources of information, and Schechter speculates that it might also have been because of Mahoney's heavy drinking.

The Story is Verified

Schechter asked Mahoney for verification of his story and on August 25 Mahoney called the agency. "While I listened on an extension," writes Schechter, "Mahoney pressed Smith (agent Robert Smith) to be honest with him. 'I worked for you guys for five years," Mahoney was shouting. "I deserve to get a straight story about what's going on.'"

Smith replied, "...the pressure (criticism of the FBI) has grown so great that they don't want us into the internal security field. They are not going to let us get involved in these organizations anymore...I don't know if we can even investigate Weathermen any more -- that's how bad it is. There is nothing we can do.... We are out of the domestic intelligence field..."

In the course of the conversation, Mahoney told Smith about the Women's Equality Demonstration slated for the next day and asked if he should cover it. Smith said no.

The next day Mahnoey called Schechter. "Remember when he (Smith) told me that the FBI wasn't collecting information on protest groups? Well guess who was at the demonstration today, because I walked by just to check it out. Robert Smith, that's who! And I could swear he had photographers with him."

Since 1971, FBI informant Mike Mahoney says he has collected intelligence on the following New England organizations:

American Indian Movement

Bread and Roses

Chinese Cultural Center

Emergency Coalition Against Racism

Free Vermont

Indochina Peace Campaign

July 4 Coalition

Law Commune

May Day Interim Committee

National Caucus of Labor Committees

Native American Solidarity Committee

New England Food Coops Organization

People's Coalition for Peace and Justice

Prairie Fire Organizing Committee

Puerto Rican Socialist Party

Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee

Restore Our Alienated Rights

Revolutionary Union-Revolutionary Communist Party

Sea Coast Area Workers Committee

Socialist Workers Party

Spartacist League

Third World Bookstore

U.S.-China People's Friendship Association

Venceremos Brigade

Vietnam Solidarity Campaign

Vietnam Veterans AGainst the War

Women's Center - Cambridge

Women's Law Commune

Youth Against War and Fascism

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Community or alternative newspapers in your area?? ? ? ? ?

Please let us know about them. Send their names, addresses/phone numbers to LNS, 17 w. 17th St., New York, N.Y. 10011. Thanks, LNS.

SEATTLE NURSES' STRIKE ENDS AFTER 68 DAYS

by John Brockhaus

Northwest Passage/LIBERATION News Service

SEATTLE (NWP/LNS)--The nurses must have appeared an easy mark to hospital administrators surveying their labor situation last spring.

The Washington State Nurses Association, the bargaining unit for Seattle area registered nurses (RNs), had a membership composed only of those who wanted to join; newly hired nurses were not required to become members of the WSNA. The Assoication had no strike fund. In fact, they had never even been out on strike. Many nurses were openly hostile to the idea of striking, and a solid core of strikebreakers could be relied upon.

And--perhaps most significant to the men of the Seattle Area Hospital Council (SAHC)--the workforce in question was composed almost exclusively of women.

No fools, the SAHC confidently forced a strike. They made just one contract proposal: the "final" one, they announced. Calling for sharp cuts in both real wages and benefits, the proposal was,to twist an old mafia phrase, an offer the nurses couldn't help but refuse. In early July they struck.

But the early victory the administrators apparently counted on was not forthcoming. True, the nurses, by some accounts 20 per cent, did cross the picketlines. But the militance and perseverance of the nurses who did strike surprised almost everyone--including the administrators and the nurses themselves.

More than nine weeks later, to mixed reviews, one of the most creative and spirited strike efforts the Seattle area has seen in quite some time came to an end.

The settlement was nowhere near what the RN's had originally hoped for. Still, gains were made. And, as one nurse told the *Passage* shortly after the nurses ratified the new contract on September 17, "It was a lovely strike."

Pros and Cons of the Settlement

Jean Sullivan, answering phones at Swedish [Hospital] Strike Headquarters after the ratification announcement, would only go so far as to term the contract "acceptable." For instance, the wage settlement, which Swedish strike chairperson Betty Bowie described as "the best we could get at the time," was nothing to pop the champagne corks about.

Beginning nurses' pay will barely keep abreast of the national inflation rate of 7 per cent. And only the nurses with high seniority will experience significant gains in real wages. 5 per cent above last year's inflation rate

In addition, the WSNA did not win an "agency shop --a mandatory membership in the Association for all nurses in the bargaining unit. It is easy to imagine the bitterness the returning nurses will feel upon seeing the strike breakers drawing the same wages and benefits they battled nine weeks to get.

Worse, the nurses won only partial amnesty for their strike activities. Nurses hired to replace the strikers by the hospitals will retain their jobs. Some of the strikers with low seniority, probably 80 or so, will have to wait to be rehired. All returning nurses, though, must be hired before any newcomers. They will retain seniority and benefits.

On the bright side, however, the WSNA retained their previously won provisions and won some new ones. According to Bowie, they "made some good gains," particularly in view of the prepared resistance of the Hospital Council. Provisions were made to correct some of the working conditions which have plagued them in the past. They also won a cost-of-living clause.

Most importantly, they won the right to elect a nurses' advisory committee in each hospital to meet with the administration to discuss staffing procedures. The committee will be purely advisory, however, and as Bowie concedes, "Whether they'll listen to us is another matter." The privision does have the advantage of allowing the WSNA to build more organization on the hospital floor. In this way, the nurses have stuck their foot in the door of gaining more control over their working situation.

A New Found Unity

But the evidence of the nurses' victory can't be found on the pages of the contract. It is a victory of newly-developed organizational experience, of women who found skills and strengths they didn't realize they possessed, of new attitudes and--above all--of unity.

Helen Prayter first worked as a nurse in the mid-1930's. The intervening years, she believes, have eroded the position of RNs in hospitals.

"When I first graduated from nursing school," she said, "nurses in some ways ran the hospitals. There was a much more cooperative relationship between administrators and nurses. And the sad thing is, back then we had some of the same benefits that we're fighting for now."

Prayter's excitement over the renewed strength of the nurses was obvious: "In over 40 years of nursing, I have never seen a group of nurses stick together like this."

Betty Bowie chaired the mass strike meetings and her speaking ability became a major asset to the WSNA. Her droll humorous attacks on the SAHC lent a note of merriment to the general air of anger, mixed with enthusiasm.

"There will be much less loyalty to the institution," she said. "Nurses' responsibility will be directed now to the patient, not the institution, and secondarily towards other nurses.

"Nurses now know other nurses. Friendships have developed. There will be less rivalry between units. There's a unity and understanding we may not have had before."

Swedish nurse Jean Sullivan said she feels that the unity and experience gained during the strike compensates for the loss of certain points in the contract. "The agency shop can wait," she said.

"We're more unified as a result of the strike. There's now a nucleus in each hosptial to continue our work."

In addition, the nurses found friends and support they didn't have before the strike. Most of the area's union leaders and many rank and filers [illegible] picket lines with the nurses several weeks ago, and union locals contributed to the strike fund.

Not every nurse will be part of the new spirit, though. Bowie predicted that the strikebreakers will be "treated very cooly. I hope they will be no overt hostility. But they're just not part of the people." Attesting to the hard feelings of the returning nurses are the "68" buttons the WSNA plans to pass out to those who walked the lines.

The strike lasted 68 days

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QUIZ YOURSELF ON WOMEN

NEW YORK (LNS)--Here's a short quiz on facts and conditions about women in the United States today. Material is based on the findings of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year.

1. Much of the law in the United States reflects the concept that a wife is the _____ of the husband

a) better half b) property c) partner d) servant

2. In 1975 the workforce increased by 1.5 million people, of which _____ were women.

a) 150,000 b) 500,000 c) 800,000 d) 1.1 million

3. When American women read the newspaper or a magazine, or watch television, do they see themselves reflected there? About ___ percent say they never seen themselves.

a) 10-15 b) 21-26 c) 40-50 d) 65-70

4. Including the women who have no incomes of their own, three-fourths of all women in the U.S. have individual incomes of less than _____

a) $4,000 b) $5,000 c) $6,000 d) $7,000

5. _____ of American women are currently married and living with their husbands.

a) one-half b) one-third c) three-fourths d) one-fourth

6. In many states, female juvenile delinquents

a) are [illegible] by judges
b) receive about the same treatment as males
c) are given shorter sentences than males
d) are given longer sentences than males

7. In 200 years, ___ women have been appointed as federal judges.

a) 5 b) 10 c) 15 d) 20

8. In the nation's colleges and universities, 60% of men professors have tenure, compared to ___ of women.

a) 15 b) 33 c) 42 d) 55

(See answers on opposite column)

ADMITTED POLITICAL BURGLAR OF UFW OFFICES GETS SUSPENDED SENTENCE IN CALIFORNIA

SAN JOSE, Ca. (LNS)--A right-wing burglar who has admitted to 17 break-ins aimed at the United Farm Workers Union was given a suspended sentence here September 16.

Jerry Ducote, former deputy sheriff and Republican Party youth leader, had faced a possible 70-year prison term based on seven felony convictions related to his espionage activities. However, Santa Clara County Judge James Duvares ruled that Ducote's 97-day jail stint during his recent trial was enough time served, and suspended the one-year sentence which was the minimum under California law.

Ducote, now a free man, has indicated he will write a book in collaboration with former Ramparts Magazine editor Warren Hinckle. The book will detail Ducote's activities in the 1960's against the UFW and other progressive organizations in California.

A look at some of Ducote's material was provided in an August article by Hinckle and former FBI agent William Turner published in New Times Magazine. The article details Ducote's meetings with Delano grower Jack Pandol and Salinas grower Steven D'Arrigo, who provided Ducote with money and materiel to burglarize UFW offices in Delano and elsewhere as well as the homes and offices of UFW supporters.

Information and files from the burglaries was passed along a chain of right-wing contacts such as Western Research, Inc., and on to the FBI and the CIA. New Times describes Western Research as a "private blacklisting service and general repository of information on the left."

The article goes on to detail the role of the Delano police, the FBI, and aides in the administration of Governor Ronald Reagan, in efforts to cover-up for Ducote. This cover-up began in 1965, when Ducote was caught in the act of breaking into the UFW Delano headquarters.

At that time, a meeting between Ducote, grower D'Arrigo's lawyer, and Delano police chief James Ailes took place and Ducote was not prosecuted. Ducote explained to Ailes that the only reason for the burglary was to prove the links of the UFW to the communist movement.

Even after he confessed to the 17 break-ins, Ducote was never charged with burglary but only with concealing stolen documents. Commenting on the suspended sentence given Ducote last week, UFW president Cesar Chavez said, "They took the wrong man to trial. Jack Pandol, Jim Ailes, and that gang are the ones that should have gone to jail."

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1. b 5. b
2. d 6. d
3. c 7. b
4. c 8. c

MOTHER OF SEATTLE ACTIVIST RESISTS GRAND JURY PROBE; "I FEEL LIKE I'M IN GERMANY IN 1935"

(Editor's note: The following article was written by Michelle Celarier and first appeared in Northwest Passage, a Washington State alternative paper. Information on harassment of the Seattle Left was added by LNS.)

SEATTLE (NWP/LNS)--Nancy Coupez, the mother of a Seattle political activist, is the latest victim of an intensive, eight month old investigation and harassment of the Seattle radical community. Coupez, who refused to testify on August 25 before a federal grand jury in Portland, Oregon, will be called before the Portland grand jury again September 28.

"I guess they figure I'm a straight, middle-class person who's going to go in and talk," the Seattle resident told the *Northwest Passage*. "I haven't done anything, but I suppose I could go to jail because I won't talk about my daughter."

Coupez was originally contacted by the FBI on August 19 regarding her Union Oil credit account, and the Portland grand jury told her that they were investigating bank robberies, apparently in Oregon. But when she entered the chambers August 25, the grand jury began by asking her if she had a daughter.

"For the next two hours, they kept asking me, 'Where is your daughter?' and said nothing about the credit account," she said. Coupez's daughter Therese was a recent member of the Women Out Now prison project in Seattle.

"If this is why I am here, I am shocked that a judicial body such as the grand jury would expect me to violate the very profound and sacred trust relationship that exists between parent and child," she said in a statement which she read to the grand jurors.

"I thought I was living in the United States in 1976," Nancy Coupez told the *Passage* two days after her first appearance before the grand jury. "But I feel like I'm in Germany in 1935."

Harassment of the Seattle Left

Coupez said she knew "a little" about the abuse of the grand jury, due to recent events in Seattle.

A Seattle grand jury has subpoenaed 11 people since February under the guise of investigating several area bombings, an attempted bank robbery, and the George Jackson Brigade that claimed responsibility for the actions. Among the 11 are four single mothers, who are particularly vulnerable to harassment since their children can be taken away if they are jailed for contempt. One woman, Michelle Whitnack, has been jailed since July 20 for her refusal to cooperate in any way with the grand jury.

Federal agents also searched the Seattle home of several activists May 1, seizing, among other things, the financial records of Seattle's Committee to End Grand Jury Abuse. Committee members contend that the Seattle grand jury has been conducting a fishing expedition for general information on political activism, as has happened over the past year and a half among many communities in this country struggling for social change. Lureida Torres, a member of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, is now incarcerated in New York for refusing to cooperate with a government investigation similar to the Seattle grand jury.

"It's a Terrible Thing and It Should Be Stopped"

In her statement to the Portland grand jury, Coupez explained her original actions surrounding the FBI visit and the Union Oil account:

"I knew of no problem with this account and since the reputation and credibility of the FBI have been questioned in the past few years, I did not wish to talk to them. They very belligerently told me that I could talk to them or I could talk to a grand jury.

"It seems totally unreal. How could this be happening to me?" she asked, adding that when she tells friends her age about the recent events, "they don't believe it. People are totally unaware of this sort of thing. I'd like to reach as many people as I can and tell them this is happening; it's a terrible thing, and it should be stopped."

* * *

(For more information, contact the Grand Jury Project, 853 Broadway, Room 1415, New York, New York 10003 (212) 533-2299.)

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NEW GOV'T REPORT SHOWS DRAMATIC RISE IN POVERTY

WASHINGTON DC (LNS)--Reflecting the impact of the recent recession, the total number of persons below the poverty line increased by 2.5 million, or 10.7 percent from 1974 to 1975, according to a Bureau of Census report released September 26.

The report indicates that the total number of people below the poverty line increased from 23.4 million in 1974 to 25.9 million in 1975. This was the largest single year increase since poverty data became available in 1959. The poverty level for 1975 was $5,500 for a family of four.

White families had a median income of $14,270 in 1975; black families a median income of $8,780, and families of Spanish origin had a median income of $9,550.

The number of white persons below the poverty level increased by 2 million, or 13 percent from 1974 to 1975, and the number of blacks by 363,000 or 5 percent. The number of poor people of Spanish origin increased by 16 percent.

The median income for men who received income in 1975 was $8,850; for women -- $3,390.

The survey further shows that about 1.4 percent of U.S. families received $50,000 or more in 1975. About 25 percent received less than $8,000.

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(Thanks to Raymond Avrutis for this information.)

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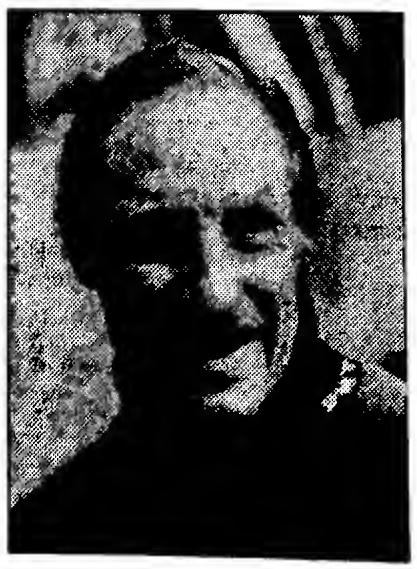
IS THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATING YOUR COMMUNITY?

If so, let LNS know about it. Write an article, send newspaper clippings, or call us up and we'll get on the story fast. Our address is 17 W. 17th St., NYC 10011 (212) 989-3555.



TOP RIGHT: Former FBI informant Yule Mahoney meets his FBI contact in supermarket parking lot.

GOES WITH STORY ON PAGE 4.

CREDIT: REAL PAPER/LNS

TOP LEFT: Yule Mahoney, former FBI informer, who spied on more than 33 New England-area organizations.

GOES WITH STORY ON PAGE 4.

CREDIT: REAL PAPER/LNS

MIDDLE RIGHT: Orlando Letelier being "escorted" out of Moneda Palace on the day of the Chilean coup.

GOES WITH STORY ON PAGE 3

CREDIT: NCCSC/LNS

MIDDLE LEFT: UAW President Leonard Woodcock (middle) joined with Henry Ford II in backing Jimmy Carter for President.

GOES WITH STORY ON PAGE 1.

CREDIT: RCP PUBLICATIONS/LNS

BOTTOM RIGHT: Orlando Letelier in 1974 while being detained on Dawson Island in Southern Chile.

GOES WITH STORY ON PAGE 3

BOTTOM LEFT: Rescue workers remove victims after bomb explosion that killed Orlando Letelier, former Chilean Ambassador to the US in the Allende government, and his assistant in Washington.

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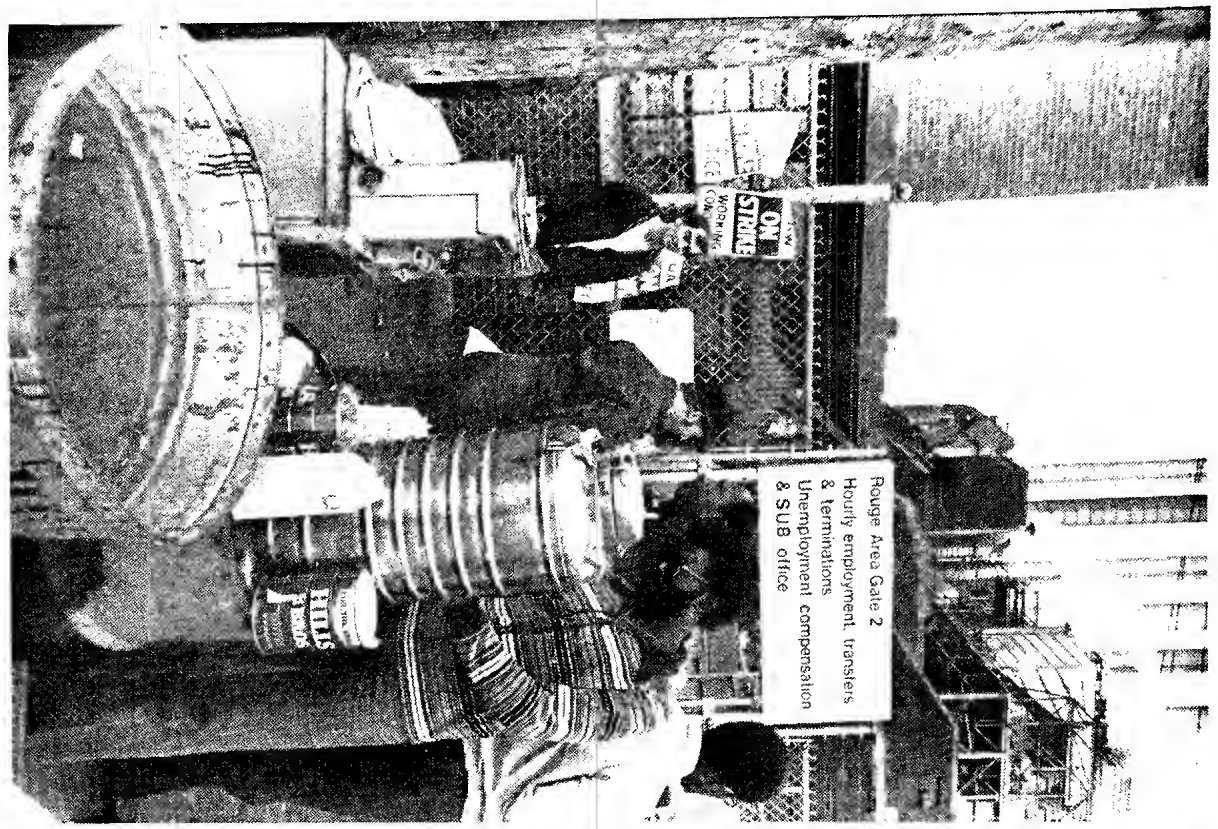
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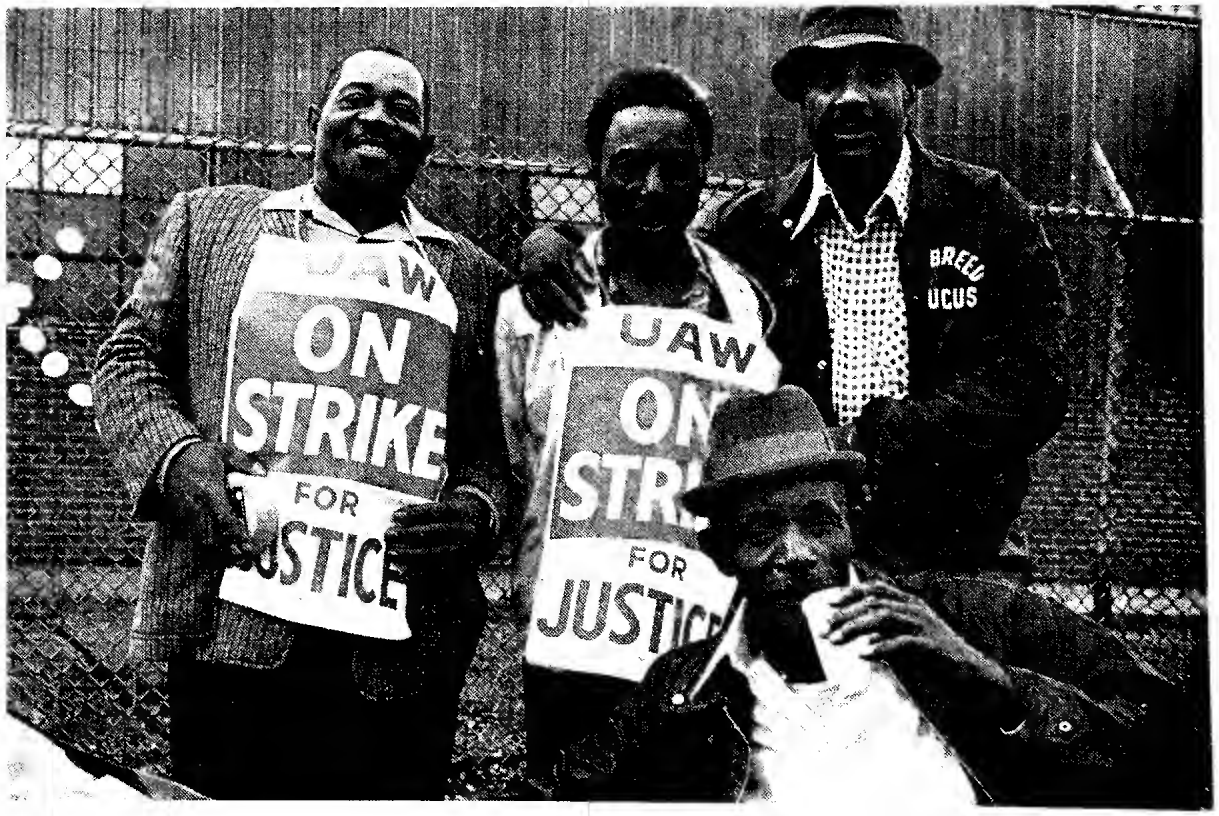
& SUB office


UAW
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TOP RIGHT: Foundry workers, some of whom have worked there for over 35 years, man picket lines at Ford Rouge Plant in Dearborn, Michigan

GOES WITH STORY ON PAGE 1

CREDIT: LNS Graphics

TOP LEFT: UAW steel division strikers outside Rouge Plant, Ford's biggest in the world. 25,000 workers are employed here, doing every aspect of car production.

GOES WITH STORY ON PAGE 1.

CREDIT: LNS Graphics

BOTTOM RIGHT: Assembly line at Ford Motor Company's Wayne, Michigan, assembly plant.

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BOTTOM LEFT: Strike signs outside Ford Rouge plant.

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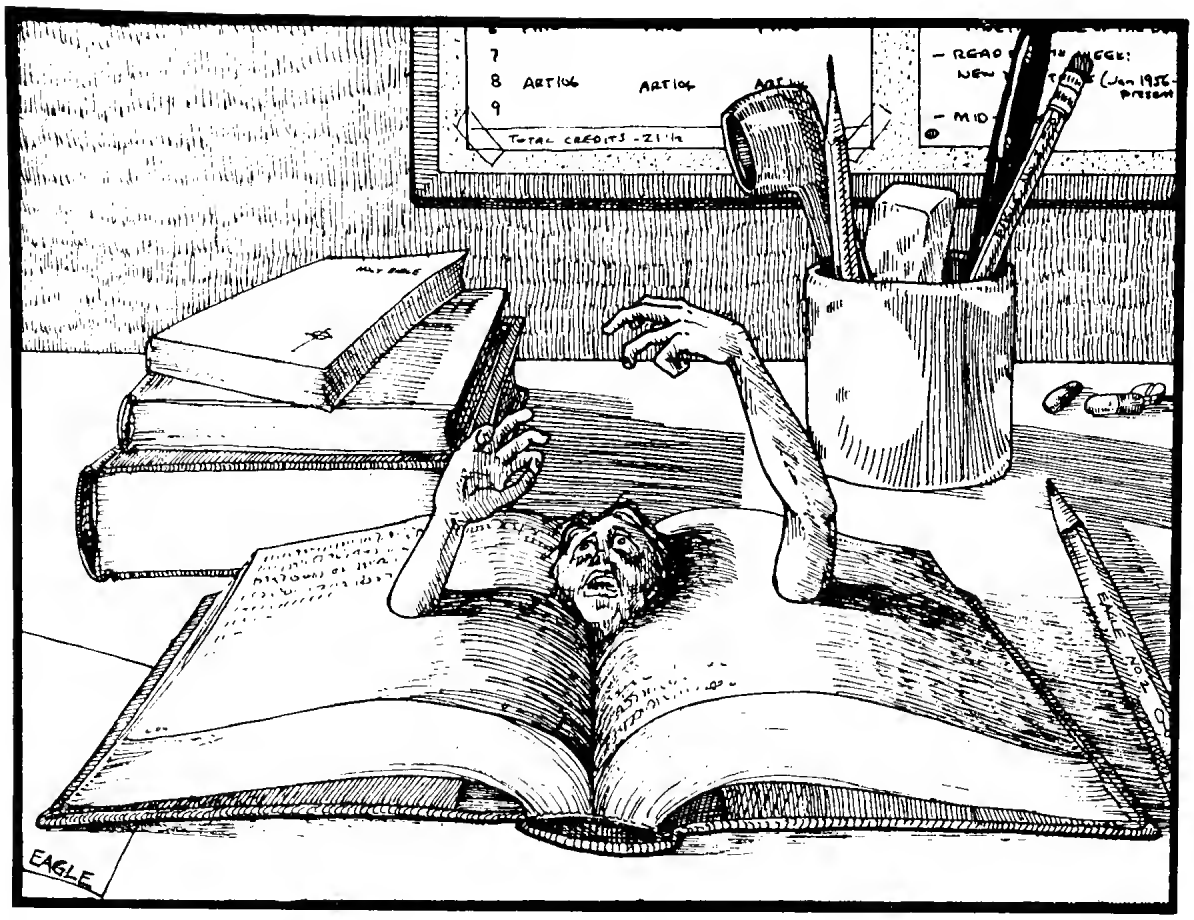
CREDIT: LNS Graphics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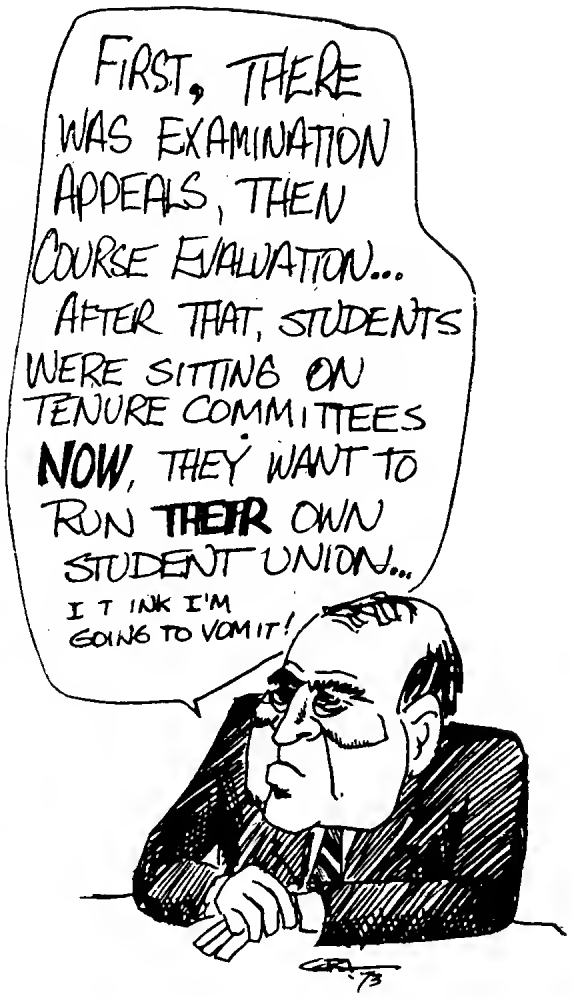
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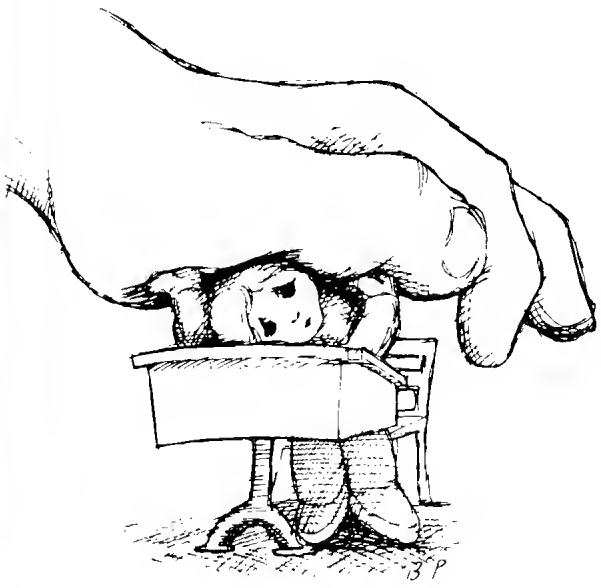

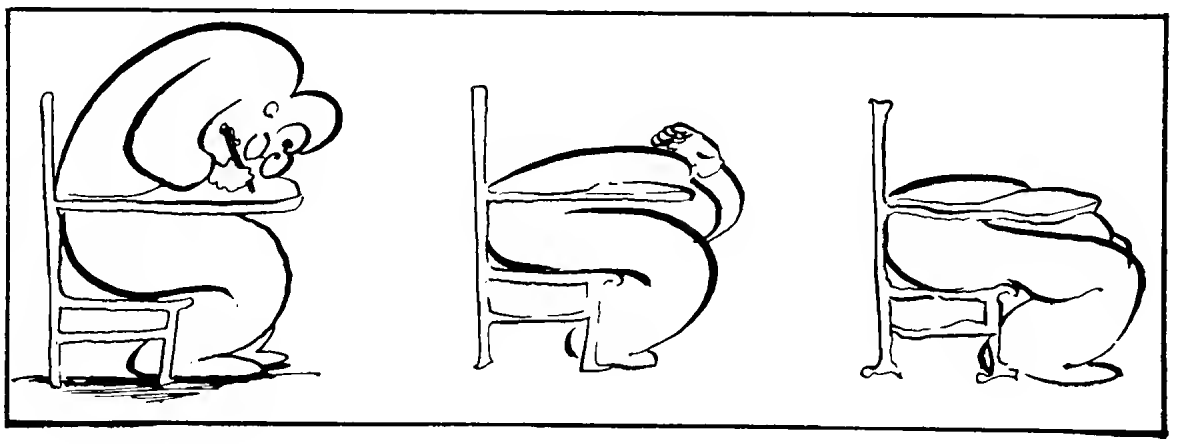

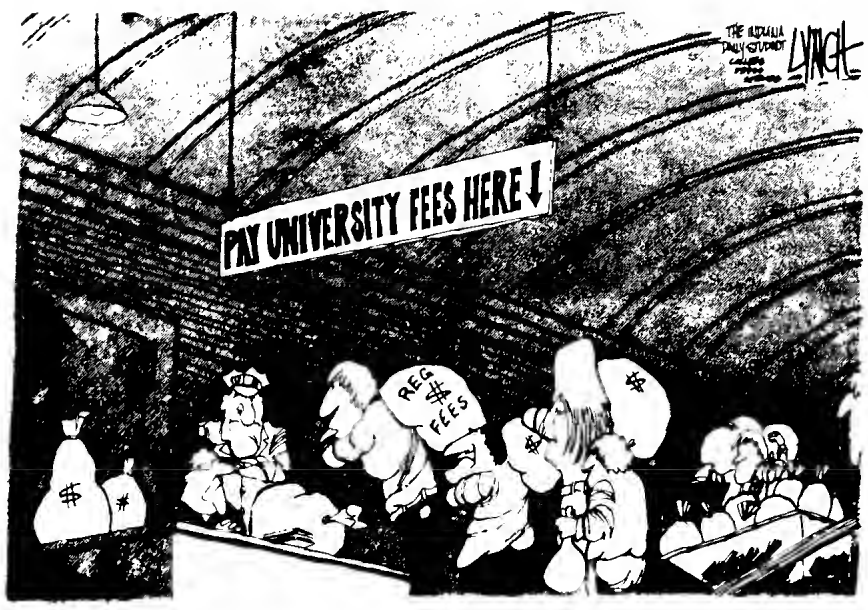
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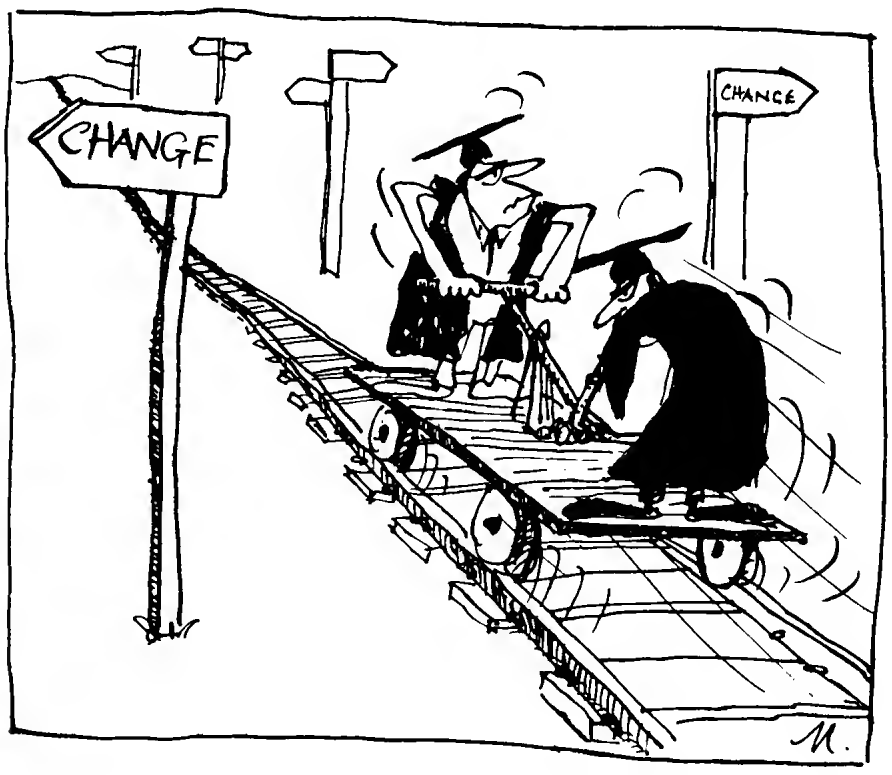
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